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SIMULTANEOUS ESTIMATION OF REGRESSION FUNCTIONS FOR MARINE CORPS TECHNICAL TRAINING SPECIALTIES

> Stephen B. Dunbar Shin-ichi Mayekawa and Melvin R. Novick

ONR Technical Report 85-1

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ONR Technical Report 85-1

January 3, 1985

This research was prepared under the Office of Naval Research Contract No. NO0014-83-C-0514, Melvin R. Novick, Principal Investigator, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE	READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
	T ACCESSION 14 3 RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
NR Technical Report 85-1	130 47 1
4 TITLE (and Subtitle)	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED
SIMULTANEOUS ESTIMATION OF REGRESSION	•
FOR MARINE CORPS TECHNICAL TRAINING S	
	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(e)	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(#)
Stephen B. Dunbar	
Shin-ichi Mayekawa	22001/ 02 0 051/
Melvin R. Novick	N00014-83-C-0514
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
Melvin R. Novick	
356 Lindquist Center, The Univ. o	of Iowa NR150-521
Iowa City, IA 52242	12. REPORT DATE
CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS	··-·
Personnel and Training Research Progr Office of Naval Research (Code 442)	ams 3 January 1985
Arlington, VA 22217 14 MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(II different from	Controlling Office) 15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)
Office of Naval Research 536 South Clark Street	unclassified
Chicago, IL 60605	AT ATTOM POWNERADING
Chicago, il 60005	154. DECLASSIFICATION DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)	
Approved for public release; distribu	tion unlimited.
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abetract entered in Bio	ck 20, if different from Report)
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	
19 KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and iden	site he block number)
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simultaneous estimation, m-group regression;	
personnel selection.	
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EDITION OF 1 NOV 65 IS OBSOLETE 5/N 0102-LF-014-6601

unclassified 3 January 1985

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

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Simultaneous Estimation of Regression Functions for Marine Corps Technical Training Specialties*

Stephen B. Dunbar Shin-ichi Mayekawa and Melvin R. Novick

The University of Iowa

Abstract

This paper considers the application of Bayesian techniques for simultaneous estimation to the specification of regression weights for selection tests used in various technical training courses in the Marine Corps. Results of a method for m-group regression developed by Molenaar and Lewis (1979) suggest that common weights for training courses belonging to certain general categories are justified in many cases. However, such commonality of regression weights does not appear to hold for all courses in these categories—weights for some training courses remain distinct even after the application of the simultaneous estimation procedure. Thus, a hypothesis of validity generalization across training courses in a given category would only be retained for a carefully selected subset of courses and not for all groups included in the analyses.

*Support for this research was provided under contract #N00014-83-C-0514 with the Personnel Training Branch of the Office of Naval Research. We are indebted to Ming-mei Wang and two anonymous reviewers for comments on an earlier draft.

Simultaneous Estimation of Regression Functions for Marine Corps Technical Training Specialties

The relative value of a regression function for predicting future performance is related to its consistency of prediction in important subgroups of examinees. When large differences between predictor-criterion relationships exist for distinct subpopulations of interest, the use of a common prediction equation is questionable for a variety of reasons. This perspective reiterates a historical concern for comparisons of more than overall predictor-criterion correlations in validation research. As noted by Humphreys (1952), useful subgroup comparisons must ask whether the same score has the same meaning in the groups being compared, i.e. whether the regression lines are identical or merely parallel (p. 134). One would only add to this an obvious concern for subgroup regressions that are neither identical nor parallel.

Empirical comparisons of regression equations for subgroups defined by demographic variables such as gender and race have generally followed procedures first outlined by Gulliksen and Wilks (1950) for statistical tests of the equality of errors of estimate, slopes and intercepts. When interest focuses on regions of the predictor space where the degree of differences between regressions is acute, the Johnson-Neyman technique has also been employed (see Gamache and Novick, 1985 and Dunbar and Novick, 1985 for some recent examples). Regression comparisons performed by these techniques are perhaps well suited for settings involving a small number of groups, although they are by no means limited to such settings.

An alternative approach to accommodating differences among subgroups in regression analysis is found in the literature on central prediction systems. Procedures such as those reviewed by Linn (1966) address the

problem of making adjustments to predictor and criterion scores for individuals of varying subgroups such that overall accuracy of prediction is increased upon cross-validation. A limiting case for approaches such as these is Cleary's (1966) individual differences model for multiple regression. As discussed by Linn (1966) and others, however, empirical studies of systems for central prediction have indicated little promise—perhaps because each classical procedure posits a particular model of group differences by the nature of the adjustments that are made to predictors and criteria. Model restrictions imposed by one central prediction system may not be justified for all groups belonging to the system (Novick and Jackson, 1974) and the effectiveness of the complete system is likely to be compromised as a result. In such cases a more flexible model for prediction in the multiple-group situation is advised.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the method of Bayesian simultaneous estimation of multiple regression in m-groups and to illustrate the application of this method to the problem of specifying prediction weights for subtests of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), Forms 6 and 7, in a variety of technical training specialties in the military. The general approach to this problem was first developed by Lindley (1971) and Lindley and Smith (1972), and further refined and applied by Novick, Jackson, Thayer, and Cole (1972), who demonstrated empirically the effectiveness of this method in increasing predictability. The particular model adopted in this paper is due to Molenaar and Lewis (1979), who developed it as a refinement of earlier procedures noted above. Other approaches to the problem have been implemented by Rubin (1980) and Braun, Jones, Rubin, and Thayer (1982).

Model Specification

The model for multiple regression in m-groups proposed by Molenaar and Lewis (1979), hereafter M-L, can be summarized as follows:

$$\underline{Y}_{k} \sim N \left(\underline{X}_{Fk} \underline{B}_{F} + \underline{X}_{Gk} \underline{B}_{Gk}, \sigma^{2} \underline{I}_{n_{k}} \right),$$

$$k = 1, 2, ..., m,$$

where $Y_k = (n_k \times 1)$ vector of observed criterion scores for group k,

 $X_{Fk} = (n_k \times F)$ matrix of predictor scores in a set F, described below,

 $\mathbf{X}_{Gk} = (\mathbf{n}_k \times \mathbf{G})$ matrix of predictor scores in a set G, described below,

 $\frac{B}{\sim F}$ = (F x 1) vector of unknown regression parameters for set F predictors,

 $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{k}}$ = (G x 1) vector of unknown regression parameters for set G predictors in group k,

 σ^2 = unknown residual variance for all m groups,

 $n_k = number of individuals in group k, and$

 $\mathbf{I}_{\mathbf{n_k}} = (\mathbf{n_k} \times \mathbf{n_k})$ identity matrix.

In addition, the unobserved parameters B_F are said to form an exchangeable sample from F independent uniform distributions for each variable in set F. The unobserved parameters B_{Gk} similarly form an exchangeable sample from a

N (μ_G , $\gamma_G \stackrel{!}{\searrow}_G$) distribution. This model of prior information is further specified by designating hyperparameters μ_G and γ_G as exchangeable samples from \mathbb{U} ($-\infty$, ∞) and inverse chi-square distributions with specified degrees of freedom, respectively, the latter in order to incorporate strength of prior information into the model. In the final prior specification for the M-L model, $\ln \sigma^2$ is assumed to be uniform. With the above prior specifications the joint distribution of parameters and hyperparameters given the data is determined—integrating out hyperparameters yields an expression for the joint posterior density of \mathbb{B}_F , \mathbb{B}_{Gk} and σ^2 from which Molenaar and Lewis obtain joint modal estimates.

The M-L model for regression in m-groups represents a general simplification of previous Bayesian solutions to the problem developed by Lindley (1971) and Lindley and Smith (1972). In particular, the M-L specification differs from the original formulations in three important ways: (1) a partitioning of predictor variables into disjoint sets, (2) a restriction on the prior between-group covariance matrix of the regression parameters to diagonality, and (3) a specification of a non-informative prior distribution on a common residual variance for all groups. The implications of each difference for regression in m-groups are discussed below. These features and other numerical aspects of the M-L algorithm lead to an accurate and computationally efficient method for simultaneous estimation of multiple regression in m-groups.

Regression coefficients in the M-L model are of two types, common or fixed across groups (the \mathbb{B}_{F}) and variable across the k groups (the \mathbb{B}_{Gk}). Variables are assigned to sets F and G on the basis of the between-group

variances of their estimated regression coefficients. When prior information strongly suggests that between-group variability is negligible, a predictor is assigned to set F at the outset of the estimation procedure. Otherwise, predictors are initially assigned to set G and are transferred to set F only if the estimates of between-group variance fall below a threshold value during the iterative solution. Molenaar and Lewis (1979) describe how such estimates are obtained and used to partition predictors.

In addition to circumventing certain problems in estimation that have occurred with previous implementations of m-group regression models, the partition of predictors explicitly recognizes that some predictors perform in a virtually identical fashion across groups. Novick, Jackson, Thayer and Cole (1972) describe the Lindley-Smith model as one which seeks a compromise between within-group least squares and pooled least-squares analyses. Partitioning predictors into those with fixed and free parameters allows for pooling in a portion of the model when data and/or prior information suggest such pooling to be appropriate. Indeed, when predictor set G is empty, the model reduces to a pooled analysis, whereas when set F is empty the model is equivalent to that of Lindley and Smith (1972).

A second feature of the M-L model that distinguishes it from previous approaches is the assumption of independent prior distributions for the parameters B_F and B_{Gk} . Restricting the dispersion matrix for the B_{Gk} to being diagonal places rather strong demands on the predictor set and is likely to be more appropriate for some predictor sets than for others. As noted by Molenaar and Lewis, however, prior knowledge about covariances is likely to be minimal in many practical situations – they also observe that their model allows for such covariances in the posterior distribution. A

consequence of this aspect of the model is that lack of shrinkage toward a common value across groups for, say, β_{lk} will not influence the degree of shrinkage that takes place for coefficients of other independent variables. This is perhaps reasonable for a selection battery that is heterogeneous with respect to the abilities required for test performance, such as the subtests of ASVAB.

The third aspect of the M-L model that distinguishes it from previous approaches is an assumption of between-group homoscedasticity of residual variances. This too places stronger demands on data, but for groups which are truly exchangeable such an assumption may be no less unreasonable than the usual assumption of homogeneity of variances within-groups. Indeed, it was observed by a reviewer that homogeneity of residual variances between groups in the M-L approach is likely to be a serious oversimplification in practice only when strong prior information for this aspect of the model is available. When the scaling of the dependent variable is arbitrary, simple standardization within groups, as is done in the following analysis, also helps to justify this aspect of the M-L model.

Me thod

Data Source

The M-L model for m-group regression was used to investigate predictor-criterion relationships in a set of technical training data from the Marine Corps. The particular data used were previously analyzed by Sims and Hiatt (1981) and consist of validation records for training courses taken from general categories of military job specialties. Of special interest is the

extent to which the regressions of final course grade (FCG) in training on a relevant set of predictors from ASVAB are similar for a group of training courses considered to be exchangeable. This is a special concern for a heterogeneous selection battery like ASVAB. A question that has plagued users of ASVAB over the years is whether common weights for subtests are justified for training programs with similar content. By initially considering such programs exchangeable, an alternative assessment of differences between regression equations for subgroups can be made. The general categories of specialties considered in this analysis are classified as Clerical, Electrical, and Mechanical. Individual recruits are assigned to training courses on the basis of ASVAB composite scores that are determined from the predictors used in each category of specialties.

Data Analysis

The training courses belonging to Clerical, Electrical and Mechanical specialty areas are presented in Table 1, along with sample sizes for each group. Preliminary inspections of bivariate scatterplots of course grades and ASVAB subtests were made for each training course in order to identify any serious departures from linearity and homoscedasticity within groups and to detect outliers. For several training courses, a small number of outliers were detected in the distribution of course grades—such observations were deleted in the ensuing analyses on the grounds that final grades for certain low-performing recruits were arbitrarily determined (see Sims and Hiatt, 1981).

For each category of training specialties, then, data analysis consisted of initial least-squares regressions of FCG on the relevant set of ASVAB predictor variables. These within-group least squares results were

then used as starting values in the M-L simultaneous estimation procedure. All courses listed in a given category in Table 1 were considered exchangeable in the Bayesian analysis. Thus, nine courses were analyzed simultaneously for the Clerical area, six for the Electrical area, and eleven for the Mechanical area.

Insert Table 1 About Here

The prior information required by the M-L model was specified in the same manner for the three types of specialties. In particular, prior estimates of the between-group variance of the parameters B_{Gk} were obtained from the so-called Model II analysis in a manner described by Jackson (1972). In essence, this method treats the β'_{gk} and their standard errors from the least squares analysis in a random-effects ANOVA manner in order to derive estimates of the between-group variance of β_{gk} for $g=1, 2, \ldots, G$. These values, γ'_{g} , were then treated as modal estimates from an inverse chisquare distribution, with degrees of freedom equal to 1 to indicate minimal prior information concerning between-group variability in the parameters.

In addition to the separate regression analyses described above, an attempt to understand the behavior of the M-L esitmates in future samples was made through a cross-validation study of the Mechanical specialties. In this analysis, a 25 percent random sample was obtained from each training course and used to estimate parameters by least-squares and M-L methods. The estimates obtained from these samples were used in predicting course grades of recruits in the remaining 75 percent. It should be clear that this procedure does not mirror exactly an ideal cross-validation study.

Nevertheless, it does provide a beginning to understanding how the M-L estimation procedure might be expected to perform in practice, especially for training programs with sample sizes that would otherwise prohibit separate least-squares solutions.

Results

The principal results presented are the estimates of regression parameters based on least-squares and M-L m-group analyses. The dependent variable, FCG, has been standardized within-groups to remove apparent differences between training courses in grading standards from the criterion distributions. The independent variables, ASVAB subtests, are typically reported on scales ranging from 20 to 80 and exceptions to this are noted in the description of results.

Clerical Specialties

ASVAB subtests used in the selection composite for clerical specialties include ability tests of Arithmetic Reasoning (AR), Word Knowledge (WK), Attention-to-Detail (AD), and an attitudinal measure called the Attentiveness Scale (CA). Unlike scores for the ability measures, observed scores on CA can range from 0 to 20. The results of within-group least-squares, pooled least-squares, and M-L analyses are summarized in Table 2. Estimates of coefficients for the four independent variables appear under the appropriate column heading. Rather than reporting the estimated intercept at 0, which is out of range on the joint predictor distribution, the intercept at the pooled centroid of the predictors is reported under the

heading Int(C). This value allows a more suitable comparison of any intercept differences that may exist among the groups. The residual standard deviations for the least-squares analysis appear in the column marked Res SD.

The within-group least-squares results in Panel (a) show clear differences among the groups, both with respect to intercept and slopes of the regression surfaces. Notable features of these results include the pattern of positive and negative intercepts across groups and the weights of relatively small magnitude for AD (recall AD is scaled in the same way as are AR and WK). In addition, coefficients estimated for the attitudinal measure, CA, display marked variation among the groups. However, when one considers that typical standard deviations on this measure are 2.5 to 3 points, the contributions made by it to prediction are quite small. Indeed, the usual significance tests failed to reject the null hypothesis that the coefficients for both AD and CA were zero at the .05 level for all Clerical specialties. Nevertheless, these variables were included in the m-group analyses in part to monitor the extent to which between-group differences on these variables were due to sampling fluctuations. Although not included in the table, multiple correlations in the least-squares analysis ranged from .40 to .79 within groups (.59 in the pooled sample).

Insert Table 2 About Here

The results of the M-L analyses in Panel (b) indicate a high degree of similarity among the Clerical training courses in terms of the slopes of regression surfaces using an equation with all four predictors when the courses are considered exchangeable and vague prior information is

specified. Estimates of coefficients for AR and WK do not differ to any important degree across the nine specialties and the apparently large differences observed for coefficients of CA in the least squares analysis are seen as a consequence of sampling variation through the eyes of the Bayesian approach. Though not reported here, results for the M-L model with predictors AD and CA removed were very similar to those in Panel (b), with only a small increase in the residual SD estimate caused by the reduced predictor set.

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Where clerical specialties do differ, even in the M-L solution, is in their intercepts at the pooled centroid. Application of the M-L model didn't greatly influence the intercept differences noted in the least squares solutions. Aside from this factor, the ASVAB subtests used for clerical specialties perform quite consistently in predicting course grades. Justification for differential weighting of predictors among training courses would apparently have to come from an assumption that some courses are not exchangeable in the way specified by the M-L model.

Electrical Specialties

ASVAB subtests used in selection for courses classified as electrical specialties were AR, General Science (GS), Mathematics Knowledge (MK), and Electrical Information (EI). Results of regression analyses from the various approaches are given in Table 3, the contents of which parallel those of the previous table.

The least-squares estimates for Electrical specialties show greater variation among groups than was seen in the case of Clerical specialties. Multiple correlations for this group of specialties ranged from .15 to .58 (.37 in the pooled sample). Differences between groups are particularly

noticeable for coefficients of AR, which are relatively large for Avionics Repair, Basic Electrician and Basic Electronics, and near zero for the remaining courses. Moreover, the least-squares coefficient for MK in the Basic Electronics group is much larger (.047) than it is in any other group. In contrast to results from the Clerical specialties, no single predictor variable in the least-squares analysis appears less important than the others in predicting performance, at least based on the magnitudes of the regression weights. Again, because the immediate purpose here is not variable selection, all subtests are retained for the M-L analysis.

Insert Table 3 About Here

The M-L results in Panel (b) again show regression toward a common value for many of the coefficients in the model used with Electrical specialties. One predictor, AR, shows much greater homogeneity across groups—the Bayesian estimates of weights for this variable are also quite different in some cases from the pooled least-squares weights given in Panel (a). Note also that the weight for the Electrical Information test (EI) was judged constant across groups using the Model II prior estimates of betweengroup variances. A contrast to this degree of homogeneity is observed with respect to predictors GS and MK. Estimated weights of the former range from .014 to .021, while those of the latter are around .026 for all but the Basic Electronics course, whose estimated weight under the M-L model was .046. As seen in the results for Clerical specialties, intercepts for the six Electrical training courses are quite distinct when evaluated at the centroid of the pooled distributions. With small mean differences on the

predictors known to exist for these groups, this again is an unsurprising result.

Although estimates of slopes for the six Electrical specialties were quite similar for two predictors, even the M-L results fail to justify a single prediction equation for all specialties in this category. Predicting success for the Basic Electronics group using this set of predictors clearly requires heavier weight to be placed on MK. Whether such a result is taken to mean that Basic Electronics is not exchangeable with the other Electrical specialties is perhaps open to question. The M-L results indicate that even when exchangeability is assumed a priori, the data warrant that a prediction model for this course be considered separately from those of other Electrical specialties.

Mechanical Specialties

The ASVAB subtests that belong to the selection composite for mechanical specialties are again AR and GS, used previously, a test of Mechanical Comprehension (MC) and a test of Automotive Information (AI). Results of the regression analyses using these subtests as predictors are given in Table 4.

Variation from group to group in the magnitudes of least-squares regression weights is again the rule rather than the exception for the Mechanical specialties. With respect to GS, weights are near zero for the Aviation Crash Crew and Small Arms Repair courses, yet of substantial magnitude, relatively speaking, for ASM (Structures) and Tracked Vehicle Repair (.034 and .043, respectively). The other predictor in this set that displays marked variation in weights across groups is AI, which has a near zero weight for ASM (Safety) and a clearly non-zero weight for the two automotive

mechanics training courses. The magnitudes of weights assigned to AR and MC are much more homogeneous in the least-squares analyses -- indeed, the estimate given for MC the pooled sample is quite representative of nearly all within-group estimates. The pattern of positive and negative intercepts at the pooled centroid is again seen in the results for mechanical specialties, as is some variability in the size of the standard errors of estimate. Multiple correlations for these groups ranged from .34 to .67, with a value of .50 obtained in the pooled sample.

Insert Table 4 About Here

Shrinkage of parameter estimates toward common values in the M-L approach is again observed in the results in Panel (b) of Table 4. Two variables (AR and MC) were assigned to predictor set F on the basis of prior specifications determined from the Model II analysis. However, the M-L estimates of parameters for predictors GS and AI have only moderately approached a value that is common across groups. Although the coefficient for GS in the Tracked Vehicle Repair course has become closer in value to those of other courses, weights for GS are still comparatively small in the Crash Crew and Small Arms Repair courses. Moreover, GS appears to play a more prominent role in predicting course grades in the Advanced Auto course than it does in the Basic Auto course. These differences were still manifest when prior specifications were altered to indicate that more weight should be placed on the Model II analysis. Given the strong assumptions of the M-L model, differences like these would be difficult to ignore in future specifications of prediction equations for these courses. Other betweengroup differences that remain even after application of the M-L approach involve estimates of intercepts and of weights for AI, which remain larger for the two automotive training courses.

Cross Validation

An additional concern when results of a series of analyses like those in this report are to be used for future versions of an aptitude battery is the expected stability of regression coefficients on cross-validation. The issues relevant to this question have received much attention in the literature over the years and no review will be given here. Bayesian methods for simultaneous estimation of regression coefficients have been shown to crossvalidate better than within-group least-squares (cf. Novick, Jackson, Thayer and Cole, 1972), particularly with small sample sizes. This result was confirmed for the Molenaar-Lewis approach with the limited cross-validation study performed on data from the Mechanical specialties. Table 5 contains mean-squared errors (MSE) and correlations (CORR) between observed and predicted criterion scores from the cross-validation analysis. The results in Table 5 are generally consistent with past comparisons of Bayesian mgroup techniques and conventional methods -- a small yet consistent trend toward smaller errors of prediction on cross-validation using a Bayesian mgroup model. Although the differences between least-squares and M-L errors given in Table 5 are quite small -- absolute differences between MSE's ranging from .001 to .043 -- this is perhaps to be expected when the crossvalidation sample represents data from the same year as the calibration sample. If one goal of the Bayesian method is to smooth out minor temporal fluctuations in the parameter estimates that might otherwise be interpreted as differences between groups, then one would expect greater accuracy on cross-validation for the M-L estimates and data from a subsequent year.

That the results using a 25/75 split of data from one year are in the correct direction suggests some promise in further applications of the m-group approach to data of the type considered in this analysis.

Insert Table 5 About Here

Discussion

Application of the M-L model for m-group regression to the prediction of success in technical training generally supports the use of common weights when ASVAB subtests are used to construct selection composites. If one were to place heavy reliance on the results of the within-group least-squares analyses, a different conclusion would certainly follow from a simple examination of estimated coefficients, even with sample sizes as large as those available in this data set. To the extent that the assumption of exchangeability is satisfied by the groups analyzed simultaneously, the M-L results provide a useful alternative assessment of the differences between specific training programs with similar content. These differences were found to be negligible for the group of Clerical training programs considered, but of sufficient magnitude for certain Electrical and Mechanical specialties to warrant more careful consideration when selection composites for future versions of ASVAB are developed.

A consideration of utmost importance in evaluating the appropriateness of the M-L model for developing prediction equations for technical training specialties in the military is the question of exchangeability. The approach to the question adopted in this paper has been to assume

exchangeability among training courses on the basis of course content and to allow results to point to groups which might well be distinct. Deletion of the few specialties in the Electrical and Mechanical areas that seem atypical of the area at large would no doubt produce even greater homogeneity of regression coefficients for predictors than has been reported here. However, more experience in applying the M-L method, or similar methods, to data from other recruiting years is likely to provide a better check on the extent to which exchangeability is justified for the groups studied in this analysis. In general, it seems that this type of assumption is properly evaluated over time rather than at a specific point in time.

The choice of the Molenaar-Lewis model for m-group regression also receives some support from the cross-validation results. As observed in the description of the model, M-L places greater restrictions on the specification of prior information, in part to increase computational efficiency and to avoid certain estimation problems (Molenaar and Lewis, 1979, pp. 6ff.). These restrictions do not appear to have compromised the effectiveness of the model for technical training specialties in the Marine Corps. Whether or not a model with more detailed prior specifications would yield results that differ perceptibly from those of the M-L approach is an open question -- the extent of improvement would certainly be related to the strength of that additional prior information. It is far from obvious that strong prior information concerning, for example, between-group covariances of regression parameters or between-group variances of residual standard deviations is available for military training specialties at the present time. Further study of such specialties using m-group techniques should certainly consider applying more detailed prior specifications and methods of estimating the required hyperparameters. Some informal comparisons made with data of the

type used in this study indicate M-L yields results similar to those from a refinement of Rubin's (1980) empirical-Bayes approach when the M-L analysis is performed after standardizing the criterion variable within groups.

Conclusion

Application of the Molenaar-Lewis model for regression in m-groups to the problem of predicting training success in various Marine Corps job specialties indicates some justification for limited use of common weights for predictor variables in training courses considered exchangeable on a priori grounds. All groups in the Clerical area were characterized by slopes of similar magnitude, although intercept differences were common. For both Electrical and Mechanical specialty areas, training courses were identified that had estimated slopes differing markedly with respect to at least one of the predictor variables included. Continued monitoring of such courses is important in judging the appropriateness of a common prediction equation for all training programs in these two areas.

The relevance of the methodology of m-group regression to predicting success in a variety of military training programs is an important outcome of this analysis. The extreme views of complete generalization of the criterion-related validity of ASVAB subtests across all courses and of entirely course-specific characterizations of subtest validity are equally unattractive. The model for m-group regression used in this study allows an assessment of exactly where between these two extreme positions an accurate characterization of criterion-related validity lies.

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Table 1
Sample Sizes for Marine Corps
Specialty Areas

Specialty Area	Sample Size
Clerical	
Basic Supply Stock	1238
Personal Financial Records	375
Administrative	1336
Personnel	176
Unit Diary	149
Communications Center	711
Aviation Operations	247
Aviation Maintenance Administration	215
Aviation Supply	496
Electrical	
Basic Electrician	223
Electrical Equipment Repair	215
Basic Electronics	1093
Radio Fundamentals	165
Field Radio Operator	1244
Avionics Repair	297
Mechanical	
Basic Auto Mechanic	1276
Advanced Auto Mechanic	618
Combat Engineer	934
Engineering Equipment Mechanic	691
Tracked Vehicle Repair	233
Basic Helicopter	801
ASM* (Safety)	124
ASM* (Hydraulics)	563
ASM* (Structures	611
Aviation Crash Crew	295
Small Arms Repair	323

^{*}ASM = Aviation Structural Mechanics.

Table 2

Least-squares and M-L m-group Estimates of Regressions for Clerical Specialties

Panel (a) - Least-squares

Training Course	Int(C)*	AR	WK	AD	CA	Res SD
Basic Supply	024	.048	.027	.004	.039	. 862
Fin. Records	107	.050	.019	.002	.036	.620
Administrative	036	.032	.027	.009	.044	.754
Personne 1	105	.043	.037	.003	.067	.869
Unit Diary	217	.026	.046	,003	.067	.908
Comm. Center	.152	.030	.027	.003	.031	.685
Av. Operations	.107	.036	.009	.017	.006	.928
Av. Maintenance	.088	.047	.027	.005	.016	. 903
Av. Supply	.175	.039	.031	.015	.015	.890
Pooled	.000	.036	.026	.007	.033	.811

Panel (b) - Molenaar-Lewis

Training Course	Int(C)	AR	WK	AD	CA
De la G	015	0.41	000	006	0.05
Basic Supply	015	.041	.028	.006	.037
Fin. Records	089	.039	.026	.007	.034
Administrative	028	.036	.027	.008	.039
Personne1	052	.039	.027	.007	.037
Unit Diary	124	.038	.027	.007	.036
Comm. Center	.151	.036	.027	.006	.033
Av. Operations	.102	.038	.025	.008	.029
Av. Maintenance	.073	.039	.027	.007	.032
Av. Supply	.154	.039	.027	.009	.030
•	Moda1	Estimate	of Res	SD = .80	03

^{*}Int(C) represents the value of the regression intercept at the centroid of the predictors in the pooled sample.

Table 3

Least-squares and M-L m-group Estimates of Regressions for Electrical Specialties

Panel (a) - Least-squares

Training Course	Int(C)	AR	GS	MK	EI	Res SD
Basic Electrician	.228	.019	.014	.023	.026	.930
Elec. Equip. Repair	113	.007	004	.031	.018	.968
Basic Electronics	354	.019	.022	.047	.021	. 813
Radio Fundamentals	385	.009	.030	.026	.012	.965
Field Radio Operator	.299	.009	.017	.028	.017	.914
Avionics Repair	436	.035	.025	.012	.034	.922
Pooled	.000	.003	.013	.027	.014	.931

Panel (b) - Molenaar-Lewis

Training Course	INT(C)	AR	GS	MK	EI*	
Basic Electrician	.212	.015	.018	.026	.020	
Elec. Equip. Repair	144	.014	.014	.026	.020	
Basic Electronics	329	.015	.021	.046	.020	
Radio Fundamentals	387	.014	.019	.027	.020	
Field Radio Operator	.314	.014	.016	.026	.020	
Avionics Repair	318	.015	.021	,025	.020	
• •	Moda1	Estimate	s of Res	s. SD =	.888	

^{*}EI was judged to belong to set F using the Model II prior estimate of between-group variance.

Table 4

Least-squares and M-L m-group Estimates of Regressions for Mechanical Specialties

Panel (a) - Least-squares

Training Course	Int(C)	AR	GS	MC	AI	Res SD
Basic Auto	111	.028	.017	.018	.038	.788
Advanced Auto	134	.029	.028	.025	.034	.746
Combat Engineer	.265	.030	.021	.027	.017	.785
Eng. Equip. Mech.	.329	.022	.020	.019	.029	.861
Trk. Veh. Repair	.010	.028	.043	.017	.016	.831
Basic Helicopter	212	.022	.022	.020	.025	. 872
ASM (Safety)	378	.032	.018	.020	.006	.942
ASM (Hydraulics)	122	.028	.029	.026	.019	.880
ASM (Structures)	180	.019	.034	.018	.013	.909
Av. Crash Crew	.091	.031	.004	.015	.018	.922
Small Arms	.113	.028	.002	.022	.015	.900
Pooled	.000	.020	.018	.020	.023	.868

Panel (b) - Molenaar-Lewis

Training Course	Int(C)	AR	GS	MC*	AI	
Basic Auto	103	.026	.018	.021	.035	
Advanced Auto	121	.026	.029	.021	.032	
Combat Engineer	.256	.026	.024	.021	.020	
Eng. Equip. Mech.	.342	.026	.019	.021	.026	
Trk. Veh. Repair	015	.026	.032	.021	.020	
Basic Helicopter	217	.026	.021	.021	.024	
ASM (Safety)	334	.026	.018	.021	.017	
ASM (Hydraulics)	113	.026	.028	.021	.021	
ASM (Structures)	185	.026	.028	.021	.016	
Av. Crash Crew	.090	.026	.010	.021	.018	
Small Arms	.118	.026	.009	.021	.017	
	Moda1	Estimate	of Res	idual SI	= .841	

^{*}Variable assigned to set F on basis of Model II prior estimates of betweengroup variances.

Table 5

Mean Square Errors and Correlations from Cross-Validation
Analyses for Mechanical Specialties

Training Course		MSE	CORR	
Basic Auto	LS	.6272	.6111	
	ML	.6282	.6103	
Advanced Auto	LS	.6157	.6210	
	ML	.6031	.6310	
Combat Engineer	LS	.6081	.6268	
•	ML	.6010	.6324	
Eng. Equip. Mech.	LS	.7535	.4979	
	ML	.7385	.5127	
Trk. Veh. Repair	LS	.7326	.5212	
•	ML	.6992	.5522	
Basic Helicopter	LS	.7620	.4891	
-	MIL	.7407	.5104	
ASM (Safety)	LS	.8554	.3525	
•	ML	.8447	.4055	
ASM (Hydraulics)	LS	.7876	.4630	
•	ML	.7698	.4818	
ASM (Structures)	LS	. 8663	.3682	
	ML	. 8395	.4027	
Av. Crash Crew	LS	.8875	.3409	
	ML	. 8443	.3990	
Small Arms	LS	.8404	.4036	
	ML	. 8326	.4132	

Value

- 1 CDR Robert J. Biersher Naval Medical R&D Command National Naval Medical Center Rethesda. MD 20814
- 1 Dr. Nick Bond Office of Naval Research Liaison Office, Far East APO San Francisco, CA 96503
- 1 Lt. Alexander Bory
 Applied Psychology
 Measurement Division
 NAMRL
 NAS Pensacola, FL J2508
- 1 Dr. Stanley Collyer Office of Naval Technology 800 N. Buincy Street Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Dr. Charles E. Davis
 Personnel and Training Research
 Office of Naval Research (Code 442PT)
 300 North Quincy Street
 Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Dr. Richard Elster Department of Administrative Sciences Naval Postgraduate School Monteray, CA 30940
- i Mr. Paul Foley Mavy Personnel R&D Center San Diego, CA 92152

- 1 Mr. Dick Hoshaw NAVOP-135 Arlington Annex Room 2834 Washington , DC 20350
- 1 Dr. Norman J. Kerr Chief of Naval Technical Training Naval Air Station Meaphis (75) Millington, TN 38054
- 1 Dr. William L. Maloy (02)
 Chief of Naval Education and Training
 Naval Air Station
 Pensacola. FL 33508

'vavy

- 1 Dr. Kneale Marshall Chairman, Operations Research Sept. Naval Post Graduate School Monterey. CA 93940
- 1 Dr. James McBride Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego. CA 92152
- 1 Cdr Ralph McCumber
 Director, Research & Analysis Division
 Navy Recruiting Command
 4015 Wilson Boulevard
 Arlington, VA 22203
- 1 Dr. George Moeiler
 Director, Behavioral Sciences Dept.
 Naval Submarine Medical Research Lab
 Naval Submarine Base
 Groton, CT 06349
- 1 Library, Code P201L Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego, CA 92:52
- 1 Technical Director Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego. CA 72152
- 6 Commanding Officer
 Naval Research Laboratory
 Code 2627
 Washington, DC 20390
- 1 Psychological Sciences Division Code 442 Office of Naval Research Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Organizational Effectiveness Research Group, Code 4420E Office of Naval Research Arlington, VA 22217
- 6 Personnel & Training Research Group Code 442PT Office of Naval Research Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Research Development & Studies Branch OP 115 Washington, DC 20350

Navv

1 LT Frank J. Petho, MSC, USN Fh.D: CNET (N-432) NAS Pensacola, FL 32508

1 Dr. Bernard Rimland (01C) Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego, CA 92152

1 Dr. Carl Ross CMET-PDCD Building 90 Breat Lakes NTC, IL 6008B

1 Mr. Drew Sands NARDC Code 52 San Diego, CA 92152

1 Lt. Marybeth Schnable IOMNAVCRUITCOM Edde 215 4015 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22206

i Dr. Robert G. Saith Office of Chief of Naval Operations SP-987H Washington, BC 20350

1 Dr. Alfred F. Smode, Director Department N-7 Navai Training Equipment Center Orlando, FL 32Bi3

1 Dr. Richard Snow Liaison Scientist Office of Naval Research Branch Office, London Box 39 FPO New York, NY 09510

1 Dr. Richard Sorensen Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego, CA 92152

1 Or. Frederick Steinheiser CNO - OP115 Navy Annex Arlington, VA 20370

1 Mr. Brad Sympson Navy Personnel A&D Center San Diego, CA 92152 Vavv

1 Dr. James Tweeddale Technical Director Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diago, 1A 52152

1 Or. Frank Vicino Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego, CA 92152

1 Dr. Douglas Wetzel
Code 12
Navy Personnal R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92:52

1 DR. MARTIN F. WISKOFF NAVY PERSONNEL R& D CENTER SAN DIEGO, CA 92152

1 Mr John H. Wolfe Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego, CA 92152

1 Capt. Bruce Young COMNAVCRUITCOM Code 21 4015 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22206

1 Cadr. Joe Young
HQ. MEPCOM
ATTN: MEPCT-P
2500 Sreen Bay Road
North Chicago, IL 60064

Page 3

Marine Corps

- 1 Capt. Rick Butler CAT Project Office HG, Marine Corps Washington, DC 20080
- 1 Mr. Paul DiRenzo Commandant of the Marine Corps Sode 180-4 Washington, DC 20380
- 1 4. William Greenup Education Advisor (2031) Education Center, MCDEC Quantico, VA 20134
- 1 May. John Meene ACP Systems Branch 23 Developiment Center (D104-MCDSC Quantico , VA 22134
- 1 Jerry Lehnus CAT Project Office H0 Marine Corps Washington , DC 20380
- i Col. Ray Leidich Headquarters, Marine Corps MPI Washington, DC 20380
- 1 Director, Office of Manpower Utilizatio 90. Marine Corps (MPU) 808, Bldg. 2009 Quantico, VA 22134
- 1 Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps
 Sade MPI-20
 #ashington, DC 20390
- i Lt. Col. Jim Murphy HQ, Marine Corps Code MRRP Washington, DC 20380
- 1 Special Assistant for Marine Corps Matters Code 100M Office of Naval Research 300 N. Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22217

Marine Corps

- 1 DR. A.L. SLAFKOSKY
 SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR (CODE RD-1)
 HD. U.S. MARINE CORPS
 WASHINGTON, DC 20180
- 1 Major Frank fohannan, USMC Headquarters, Marine Corps (Code MPI-20) Washington, DC 20780

Art.

- 1 Technical Director
 10. 8. Arm. Pesearch Institute For the
 Behavioral and Bodial Sciences
 5001 Eisenhawer Avenue
 Alexandria, VA 20000
- 1 Dr. Kent Eaton Aray Research Institute 5001 Eisenhower Blvd. Alexandria , VA 22333
- 1 Lt. Col Rich Entlich
 HG. Dept. of the Arav
 SCSA.DACS-DPM)
 Washington, DC 20319
- 1 Dr. Beatrice J. Farr 1. 3. Army Research Institute 500: Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria. VA 22333
- 1 Dr. Myron Fischl
 U.S. Army Research Institute for the
 Social and Behavioral Sciences
 5001 Eisenhower Avenue
 Alexandria, 7A 22373
- 1 Lt. Sol. Pon Harmer USARCRO-RS Ft. Sheridan. IL 60037

(

- 1 Dr. Milton S. katz Training Technical Area U.S. Army Research Institute 5001 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, VA 22333
- 1 Cr. Clessen Martin Army Research Institute 5001 Eisenhower Blyd. Alexandria, VA 22333
- 1 Or. William E. Nordbrock FMC-ADCO Box 25 APO, NY 09710
- i Mr. Robert Ross
 U.S. Army Research Institute for the
 Social and Behavioral Sciences
 5001 Eisenhower Avenue
 Alexandria, VA 22333

2000

- 1 Mr. Lou Ruberton DAPE-MPA-C3 Departfment of the Army Washington, DC 20210
- 1 Dr. Joyce Shields
 Army Research Institute for the
 Behavioral and Social Sciences
 5001 Eisenhower Avenue
 Alexandria, VA 22333
- 1 Ms. Betty Stickel DAPE-MFA-P 28729 Pentagon Washington, DC 20310
- 1 Dr. Hilda Wing Army Research Institute 5001 Eisenhower Ave. Alexandria. VA 22333

Air Force

- 1 Air Force Human Resources Lab AFH9L/MPD Brooks AFB, IX 78235
- 1 Technical Documents Center 4ir Force Human Resources Laboratory WPAFB. OH 45433
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- 1 Col. Roger Campbell AF/MPXCA Pentagon, Room 4E195 Washington, DC 20330
- 1 Mr. Raywond E. Christal AFHRL/MOE Brooks AFB, TX 78235
- 1 Dr. Alfred R. Fregly AFOSR/NL Bolling AFB, DC 20332
- 1 Dr. Genevieve Haddad Program Manager Life Sciences Directorate AFDSR Bolling AFB, DC 20332
- 1 Dr. Patrick Kyllonen AFHRL/MOE

Brooks AFB. TX 78235

- i Mr. Randolph Fark AFHRL/MOAN Brooks AFB, TX 78235
- 1 Lt. Col. Dave Payne
 AFHRL/MOE
 Brooks AFB, TX 78235

Air Force

- 1 Dr. Roger Pennell
 Air Force Human Resources Laboratory
 Lowry AFB. CO 80230
- 1 Dr. Malcola Ree AFHRL/MP Brooks AFB, TX 78235
- 1 Mag. Bill Strickland AF/MPXOA 4E168 Pentagon Washington, DC 20330
- 1 Lt. Col James E. Watson H9 USAF/MPXOA The Pentasgon Washington, DC 20330
- 1 Major John Weish AFHRL/MUAN Brooks AFB , TX

Department of Defense

1 Mr. Bob Brandewie
 Defense Mangower Data Center
550 Camino Si Estisno, #200
Monterey, CA RTR40

1 Mr. J. Burgener MERCOM MERCI-P 2500 Green Bay Road North Chicago, IL 60064

1 LOndr. Tom Dean -Q. MEPCOM MEPCAM-P 2500 Green Bay Road North Chicago , 11 50064

12 Defense Technical Information Center Cameron Station, Bldg 5 Alexandria, VA 22214 Attn: TO

1 Dr. William Graham
Testing Directorate
MEROGM/MERGT-P
Ft. Sharidan, IL 60007

i Dr. Blarence McDoraick HB, MEPCOM MEPCT-P 2500 Green Bay Road Neprth Chicago, IL 60064

1 Military Assistant for Training and Personnel Technology Office of the Under Secretary of Defens for Research & Engineering Poom 3D129. The Pentagon Washington, DC 20301

: Col. Van Poznak HG. MEPCOM ATTN: Director MEPCAM 2500 Green Bav Raod North Chicago, IL 60064

1 Dr. W. Steve Sellman
Cffice of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense (MRA & L)
23259 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20201

Department of Defense

1 Mr. John Stryler HG. MEPCOM MEPCAM 2500 Green Pay Road North Chicago, IL 60064

1 Major Jack Thorne DARPA 1400 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22209

i Dr. Robert A. Wisher CUSDRE (ELS) The Pentagon, Roba 3D129 Washington, DC 20301

Civilian Agencies

- 1 Dr. Bob Frey
 Soomandant (6-P-1/2)
 USSS M9
 Washington, DC 20593
- i Dr. Vern W. Urry Personnel R&D Center Office of Personnel Management 1900 E Street NW Washington, DC 20415
- 1 Mr. Thomas A. Warm
 U. S. Coast Guard Institute
 F. O. Substation 18
 Oklahoma City, UK 73167
- i Dr. Joseph L. Young, Director Memory & Cognitive Processes National Science Foundation Washington, 22 20550

Private Sector

- 1 Dr. James Algina University of Florida Sainesville, FL 326
- 1 Dr. Erling 3. Andersen Department of Statistics Studiestraede 5 1455 Copenhagen DENMARK
- 1 1 Psychological Research Unit NBH-3-44 Attn Northbourne House Turner ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA
- 1 Dr. Isaac Bejar Educational Testing Service Princeton, NJ 08450
- 1 Dr. Menucha Birentaum School of Education Tel Aviv University Tel Aviv, Ramat Aviv 67978 Israel
- 1 Dr. Werner Birke Personalstammamt der Bundeswehr D-5000 Koeln 90 WEST GERMANY
- 1 Dr. R. Darrell Bock
 Department of Education
 University of Chicago
 Chicago, IL 60637
- Dr. Robert Brennan
 American College Testing Programs
 P. O. Box 168
 Iowa City, IA 52243
- 1 Dr. Paul Brower fEDSIM/NA 6118 Franconia Road Alexandria , VA 22310
- 1 Bundministerium der Verteibigung -Referat P II 4-Psychological Service Postfach 1328 D-5300 Bonn 1 F. R. of Germany

Pri ate Bettor

1 Br. Errest R. Dacotte 507 Stokely intrensity of Tennessee icocyclie. Th 17915

1 Dr. John B. Carroll 409 Elliott Rg. Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dr. Kenneth E. Clark
 President
 Center for Creative Leadership
 5000 Laurinda Br.
 P. D. Box P-1
 Greensboro, NC 27402

1 Dr. Norman Cliff
Dept. of Psychology
Univ. of So. California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90007

1 Or. Hans Crombag
Education Research Center
University of Leyden
Goerhaavelaan 2
2334 EN Leyden
The METHERLANDS

1 CTB/McGraw-Hill Library 2500 Garden Road Monterey, CA 93940

1 Dr. Dattpradad Divgi Syracuse University Department of Psychology Syracuse, NE 33210

i Dr. Hei-<i Song Ball Foundation Room 314, Building b 300 Roosevelt Road Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dr. Fritz Drasgow
Department of Psychology
University of Illinois
603 E. Daniel St.
Champaign, IL 61820

1 Dr. Susan Embertson PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS Lawrence, KS 66045 Private Sector

1 ERIC Facility-Acoussitions 4833 Rugby Avenue Bethesoa. MB 20014

1 Dr. Benjamin A. Fairbank, Jr. McFann-Bray & Associates, Inc. 5825 Callaghan Buite 225 San Antonio, TX 78228

i Dr. Leonard Feidt Lindquist Center for Measurment University of Iowa Iowa City, IA 52242

Dr. Richard L. Ferguson
 The American College Testing Program
 P.O. Box 168
 Towa City. IA 52240

1 Dr. Victor Fields
Dept. of Psychology
Montgomery College
Rockville, MD 20850

1 Univ. Prof. Sc. Serhard Fischer Liebiggasse 5/3 A 1010 Vienna AUSTRIA

1 Professor Donald Fitzgerald University of New England Armidale, New South Wales 2351 AUSTRALIA

1 Dr. Dexter Flatcher
University of Oregon
Department of Computer Science
Eugene, DR 97403

1 Dr. John R. Frederiksen Bolt Beranek & Newman 50 Moulton Street Cambridge, MA 02138

1 Dr. Robert Slaser
Learning Research & Development Center
University of Pittsburgh
3939 O'Hara Street
PITTSBURGH, PA 15260

Private Sector

- i Gr. Sert Green
 Johns Hopkins University
 Department of Psychology
 Charles & 34th Street
 Baltimore, MD 21218
- 1 Mr. David Gurtner FEDSIM/NA 6118 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310
- 1 Dr. Ron Hambleton School of Education University of Massachusetts Asherst. MA 01002
- 1 Dr. Susan Hardwicke Renap Broup. Inc. 1760 Rosecrans Street (Suite 1) San Diego, CA 72106
- 1 Dr. Belwyn Harmisch University of Illinois 142b Education Urbana, IL 61801
- 1 Dr. Paul Horst 577 5 Street, \$184 Chula Vista. CA 90010
- i Dr. Lloyd Humphreys Department of Psychology University of Illinois 603 East Daniel Street Champaign, IL 61820
- 1 Dr. Steven Hunka
 Department of Education
 University of Alberta
 Edmonton, Alberta
 CAMADA

- 1 Dr. Earl Hunt Dept. of Psychology University of Washington Seattle. WA 98105
- 1 Dr. Jack Munter 2122 Coolidge St. Lansing, AI 48906

Private Sector

- i Dr. Huynh Huynh College of Education University of South Carolina Columbia, SC 29208
- 1 Dr. Douglas H. Jones
 Advanced Statistical Technologies
 Corporation
 10 Trafalgar Court
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08148
- 1 Professor John A. Keats
 Department of Psychology
 The University of Newcastle
 N.J.W. 2308
 AUSTRALIA
- 1 Dr. William Koch
 University of Texas-Austin
 Measurement and Evaluation Center
 Austin, TX 78703
- 1 Dr. Michael Levine
 Department of Educational Psychology
 210 Education Bldg.
 University of Illinois
 Champaign, IL 61801
- 1 Dr. Charles Lewis
 Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen
 Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
 Oude Boteringestraat 23
 97126C Groningen
 Netherlands
- 1 Dr. Robert Linn College of Education University of Illinois Urbana, IL 61801
- 1 Dr. Frederic M. Lord Educational Testing Service Princeton, NJ 08541
- 1 Dr. James Lumsden
 Department of Psychology
 University of Western Australia
 Nedlands W.A. 6009
 AUSTRALIA
- 1 Dr. Gary Marco Stop 31-E Educational Testing Service Princeton, NJ 08451

Private Sector

1 Or. Scott Maxwell Department of Payotology University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN 46556

i Or. Samuel T. Mavo Lovela University of Chicago 820 North Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60611

i William J. McLaurin 66610 Howie Court Camp Springs. MD 20031

1 Or. Barbara Means
Human Resources Research Organization
700 North Washington
Alexandria, VA 22314

i Dr. Robert Mislevy 711 Illinois Street Geneva. IL 60174

E

1 Dr. Melvin R. Novick ISS Lindquist Senter for Measurment University of Iowa Iowa City, IA 52242

1 Dr. James Olson WICAT, Inc. 1875 South State Street Grem. UT 84057

1 Dr. Jesse Orlansky
Institute for Defense Analyses
1801 N. Beauregard St.
Alexandria, VA 20011

1 Wayne M. Patience
American Council on Education
GED Testing Service, Suite 20
One Dupont Cirle, NN
Washington, DC 20036

1 Dr. James A. Paulson Portland State University 9.0. Box 751 Portland, SR 77207

1 Dr. Sam Pearson CACI, Inc. FED. Department 5921 1815 North Fort Myers Drive Arlington, VA 22209 Private Sector

1 Or. Mark D. Rachase ADT P. O. Box 168 Towa City, 14 52243

i Dr. Thomas Reynolds
University of Texas-Dallas
Marketing Department
P. O. Box 588
Richardson, TX 75080

1 Mr. Ken Rieck FEDSIM/NA 5118 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310

1 Dr. Andrew M. Rose American Institutes for Research 1055 Thomas Jefferson St. NW Washington, DC 20007

1 Dr. J. Ryan
Department of Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

1 PROF. FUMIKO SAMEJIMA DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE. TN 37916

1 Frank L. Schmidt
Department of Psychology
Bldg. 56
George Washington University
Washington, DC 20052

1 Lowell Schoer
Psychological & Quantitative
Foundations
College of Education
University of Idwa
Idwa City, IA 52242

1 Dr. Kazuo Shigemasu 7-9-24 Kugenuma-Kaigan Fujusawa 251 JAPAN

1 Dr. Edwin Shirkey Department of Psychology University of Central Florida Orlando, FL 32816 Private Sector

- 1 Dr. William Stas Center for Naval Analysis 200 North Beauregard Street Alexandria, VA 22311
- 1 Dr. H. Wallace Sinaiko Program Director Manpower Research and Advisory Services Smithsonian Institution 301 North Pitt Street Alexandria, VA 22314
- 1 Dr. Pater Stoloff Center for Naval Analysis 200 North Beauregard Street Alexandria, VA 22311
- 1 Or. William Stout Entversity of Illinois Department of Mathematics Urbana, IL 6180.
- 1 Dr. Hariharan Swaminathan Laboratory of Psychometric and Evaluation Research School of Education University of Massachusetts Amberst, MA 01003
- 1 Dr. Kikumi Tatsuoka Computer Based Education Research Lab 252 Engineering Research Laboratory Urbana, IL 61801
- 1 Dr. Maurice Tatsuoka 220 Education Bldg 1310 S. Bixth St. Champaign, IL 51820
- 1 Dr. David Thissen
 Department of Psychology
 University of Kansas
 Lawrence, KS 66044
- 1 Dr. Robert Tsutakawa Department of Statistics University of Missouri Columbia, MO 65201
- 1 Dr. David Vale
 Assessment Systems Corporation
 2223 University Avenue
 Suite 310
 St. Paul. MN 55114

Private Sector

- 1 Dr. Howard Wainer
 Division of Psychological Studies
 Educational Testing Service
 Princeton, NJ 08540
- 1 Dr. Brian Waters HumRRO 300 North Washington Alexandria, VA 22314
- 1 Dr. David J. Weiss N660 Elliott Hall University of Minnesota 75 E. River Road Minneapolis, MN 55455
- 1 Dr. Donald O. Weitzman Mitre Corporation 1820 Delley Madison Blvd McLean, VA 22102
- 1 DR. GERSHON WELTMAN
 PERCEPTRONICS INC.
 4271 VARIEL AVE.
 WOODLAND HILLS. CA 9:167
- 1 Dr. Rand R. Wilcox
 University of Southern California
 Dapartment of Psychology
 Los Angeles, CA 90007
- 1 Wolfgang Wildgrube Streitkraefteamt Box 20 50 03 D-5300 Bonn 2 WEST SERMANY
- 1 Dr. Bruce Williams
 Department of Educational Psychology
 University of Illinois
 Urbana, IL 61801

Additional Names

- 1 Dr. Frank Erwin
 President
 Richardson, Bellows, Henry & Co.
 Suite 612
 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20036
- 1 Dr. Lorraine Eyde
 Office of Personnel Research &
 Development Center
 1900 E Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20415
- 1 Dr. Milt Hakel Ord Inc. 2455 N. Star Road Suite 303 Columbus, OH 43221
- 1 Dr. Samuel Messick Vice President for Research Educational Testing Service Princeton, NJ 08541
- 1 Dr. Nancy Petersen Educational Testing Service Princeton, NJ 08541
- 1 Dr. Mary Tenopyr AT & T 550 Madison Avenue Room 1141 New York, Ni 10022
- 1 Dr. Alexandra Wigdor National Research Council 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20418

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